VII. Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, comprising the steps of:

receiving an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece, wherein the identification file contains an identification code and a postal code; and

resolving mailpiece information for a mail processing device, using the identification file.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the mail processing device is a bar code sorter.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the identification code is an ID tag.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the postal code is a POSTNET code.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

storing the identification file in a lookup table.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

maintaining a service area table for a secondary identification code server.

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7. The method of claim 1, wherein the resolving step further comprises the substeps of:

receiving an identification code from a mail processing device, where the mail processing device obtains the identification code from the mailpiece;

processing the identification code to determine the identification information, using the identification file corresponding to the identification code; and

transmitting the identification information to the mail processing device.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the identification file further includes an image capture time.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the identification file further includes a plurality of status bits that indicate aspects of the identification file.

10. A system for processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, comprising:

an identification file receiving component configured to receive an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece, wherein the identification file contains an identification code and a postal code; and

a resolving component configured to resolve mailpiece information for a mail processing device, using the identification file.

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11. The system of claim 10, wherein the mail processing device is a bar code sorter.

12. The system of claim 10, wherein the identification code is an ID tag.

13. The system of claim 10, wherein the postal code is a POSTNET code.

14. The system of claim 10, further comprising:

a storing component configured to store the identification file in a lookup table.

15. The system of claim 10, further comprising:

a maintaining component configured to maintain a service area table for a secondary identification code server.

16. The system of claim 10, wherein the resolving component includes:

an identification code receiving component configured to receive an identification code from a mail processing device, where the mail processing device obtains the identification code from the mailpiece;

a processing component configured to process the identification code to determine the identification information, using the identification file corresponding to the identification code; and

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a transmitting component configured to transmit the identification information to the mail processing device.

17. The system of claim 10, wherein the identification file further includes an image capture time.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the identification file further includes a plurality of status bits that indicate aspects of the identification file.

19. A system for processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, comprising:

means for receiving an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece, wherein the identification file contains an identification code and a postal code; and

means for resolving mailpiece information for a mail processing device, using the identification file.

20. A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, the computer readable code comprising:

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an identification file receiving module configured to receive an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece, wherein the identification file contains an identification code and a postal code; and

a resolving module configured to resolve mailpiece information for a mail processing device, using the identification file.

21. A method of processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, comprising the steps of:

receiving an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece;

resolving mailpiece information for a mail processing device using the identification file; and

updating a secondary identification code server using the identification file.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the mail processing device is a bar code sorter.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein the identification file contains an identification code and a postal code.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the identification code is an ID tag.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein the postal code is a POSTNET code.

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26. The method of claim 21, wherein the secondary identification code server is a SICS server.

27. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of:

storing the identification file in a lookup table.

28. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of:

maintaining a service area table for a secondary identification code server.

29. The method of claim 21, wherein the resolving step further comprises the substeps of:

receiving an identification code from a mail processing device, where the mail processing device obtains the identification code from the mailpiece;

processing the identification code to determine the identification information, using the identification file corresponding to the identification code; and

transmitting the identification information to the mail processing device.

30. The method of claim 21, wherein the identification file further includes an image capture time.

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31. The method of claim 30, wherein the identification file further includes a plurality of status bits that indicate aspects of the identification file.

32. A system for processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, comprising:

an identification file receiving component configured to receive an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece;

a resolving component configured to resolve mailpiece information for a mail processing device using the identification file; and

an updating component configured to update a secondary identification code server using the identification file.

33. The system of claim 32, wherein the mail processing device is a bar code sorter.

34. The system of claim 32, wherein the identification file contains an identification code and a postal code.

35. The system of claim 34, wherein the identification code is an ID tag.

36. The system of claim 34, wherein the postal code is a POSTNET code.

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37. The system of claim 32, wherein the secondary identification code server is a SICS server.

38. The system of claim 32, further comprising:

a storing component configured to store the identification file in a lookup table.

39. The system of claim 32, further comprising:

a maintaining component configured to maintain a service area table for a secondary identification code server.

40. The system of claim 32, wherein the resolving component includes:

an identification code receiving component configured to receive an identification code from a mail processing device, where the mail processing device obtains the identification code from the mailpiece;

a processing component configured process to the identification code to determine the identification information, using the identification file corresponding to the identification code; and

a transmitting component configured to transmit the identification information to the mail processing device.

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41. The system of claim 32, wherein the identification file further includes an image capture time.

42. The system of claim 41, wherein the identification file further includes a plurality of status bits that indicate aspects of the identification file.

43. A system for processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, comprising:

means for receiving an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece;

means for resolving mailpiece information for a mail processing device using the identification file; and

means for updating a secondary identification code server using the identification file.

44. A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, the computer readable code comprising:

an identification file receiving module configured to receive an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece;

a resolving module configured to resolve mailpiece information for a mail processing device using the identification file; and

an updating module configured to update a secondary identification code server using the identification file.

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45. A method of processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, comprising the steps of:

receiving an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece;

storing the identification file in a lookup table;

maintaining a service area table database with a service area table for a secondary identification code server;

resolving mailpiece information for a mail processing device using the identification file; and

updating the secondary identification code server using the service area table.

46. The method of claim 45, wherein the mail processing device is a bar code sorter.

47. The method of claim 45, wherein the storing step further comprises:

revising an old identification file in the lookup table with a revised identification file.

48. The method of claim 45, wherein the identification file contains an identification code and a postal code.

49. The method of claim 48, wherein the identification code is an ID tag.

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50. The method of claim 48, wherein the postal code is a POSTNET code.

51. The method of claim 45, wherein the service area table contains a plurality of postal codes corresponding to the secondary identification code server.

52. The method of claim 45, wherein the secondary identification code server is a SICS server.

53. The method of claim 45, wherein the resolving step further comprises the substeps of:

receiving an identification code from a mail processing device, where the mail processing device obtains the identification code from the mailpiece;

processing the identification code to determine the identification information, using the identification file corresponding to the identification code; and

transmitting the identification information to the mail processing device.

54. The method of claim 45, wherein the identification file further includes an image capture time.

55. The method of claim 54, wherein the identification file further includes a plurality of status bits that indicate aspects of the identification file.

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56. A system for processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, comprising:

an identification file receiving component configured to receive an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece;

a storing component configured to store the identification file in a lookup table;

a maintaining component configured to maintain a service area table database with a service area table for a secondary identification code server;

a resolving component configured to resolve mailpiece information for a mail processing device using the identification file; and

an updating component configured to update the secondary identification code server using the service area table.

57. The system of claim 56, wherein the mail processing device is a bar code sorter.

58. The system of claim 56, wherein the storing component includes:

a revising component configured to revise an old identification file in the lookup table with a revised identification file.

59. The system of claim 56, wherein the identification file contains an identification code and a postal code.

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60. The system of claim 59, wherein the identification code is an ID tag.

61. The system of claim 59, wherein the postal code is a POSTNET code.

62. The system of claim 56, wherein the service area table contains a plurality of postal codes corresponding to the secondary identification code server.

63. The system of claim 56, wherein the secondary identification code server is a SICS server.

64. The system of claim 56, wherein the resolving component includes:

an identification code receiving component configured to receive an identification code from a mail processing device, where the mail processing device obtains the identification code from the mailpiece;

a processing component configured to process the identification code to determine the identification information, using the identification file corresponding to the identification code; and

a transmitting component configured to transmit the identification information to the mail processing device.

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65. The system of claim 56, wherein the identification file further includes an image capture time.

66. The system of claim 65, wherein the identification file further includes a plurality of status bits that indicate aspects of the identification file.

67. A system for processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, comprising:

means for receiving an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece;

means for storing the identification file in a lookup table;

means for maintaining a service area table database with a service area table for a secondary identification code server;

means for resolving mailpiece information for a mail processing device using the identification file; and

means for updating the secondary identification code server using the service area table.

68. A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, the computer readable code comprising:

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an identification file receiving module configured to receive an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece;

a storing module configured to store the identification file in a lookup table;

a maintaining module configured to maintain a service area table database with a service area table for a secondary identification code server;

a resolving module configured to resolve mailpiece information for a mail processing device using the identification file; and

an updating module configured to update the secondary identification code server using the service area table.

69. A method of processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, comprising the steps of:

receiving an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece from an image control unit, wherein the identification file contains a file identification code and a file postal code;

storing the identification file in a lookup table;

maintaining a service area table database with a service area table for a secondary identification code server;

resolving mailpiece information for the mailpiece, wherein the resolving step further comprises the substeps of:

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receiving an identification code from a mail processing device, where the mail processing device obtains the identification code from the mailpiece;

processing the identification code to determine the identification information, using the identification file corresponding to the identification code; and

transmitting the identification information to the mail processing device; and

updating the secondary identification code server, wherein the updating step further comprises the substeps of:

generating the data file using the service area table corresponding to the secondary identification code server to identify identification files in the lookup table; and

transmitting the data file to the secondary identification code server.

70. The method of claim 69, wherein the mail processing device is a bar code sorter.

71. The method of claim 69, wherein the storing step further comprises:

revising an old identification file in the lookup table with a revised identification file.

72. The method of claim 69, wherein the identification code is an ID tag.

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73. The method of claim 69, wherein the file identification code is an ID tag.

74. The method of claim 69, wherein the file postal code is a POSTNET code.

75. The method of claim 69, wherein the service area table contains a plurality of postal codes corresponding to the secondary identification code server.

76. The method of claim 69, wherein the secondary identification code server is a SICS server.

77. The method of claim 69, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a delete file message from the mail processing device indicating an identification file to be deleted; and

deleting the identification file to be deleted from the lookup table in response to the delete file message.

78. The method of claim 69, wherein the resolving step further comprises the substeps of:

connecting to the mail processing device via a telecommunications link;

receiving test data from the mail processing device; and

confirming the test data.

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79. The method of claim 78, wherein the test data consists of nineteen test mailpiece identification codes.

80. The method of claim 69, wherein the identification information transmitting step further comprises the substep of:

transmitting the identification file corresponding to the identification code, if the identification code is found in the lookup table.

81. The method of claim 69, wherein the identification information transmitting step further comprises the substep of:

transmitting the file postal code corresponding to the identification code, if the identification code is found in the lookup table.

82. The method of claim 69, wherein the identification information transmitting step further comprises the substep of:

transmitting an error message to the mail processing device, if the identification code is not found in the lookup table.

83. The method of claim 69, wherein the data file is a SICS_ZIP data file.

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84. The method of claim 69, wherein the identification file further includes an image capture time.

85. The method of claim 84, wherein the identification file further includes a plurality of status bits that indicate aspects of the identification file.

86. The method of claim 69, wherein the updating step occurs at a predetermined time interval.

87. The method of claim 86, wherein the predetermined time interval is twenty minutes.

88. The method of claim 69, wherein the updating step occurs when a predetermined number of identification files have been received.

89. The method of claim 88, wherein the predetermined number of identification files is twenty thousand.

90. A system for processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, comprising:

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an identification file receiving component configured to receive an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece from an image control unit, wherein the identification file contains a file identification code and a file postal code;

a storing component configured to store the identification file in a lookup table;

a maintaining component configured to maintain a service area table database with a service area table for a secondary identification code server;

a resolving component configured to resolve mailpiece information for the mailpiece, wherein the resolving component further comprises:

an identification code receiving component configured to receive an identification code from a mail processing device, where the mail processing device obtains the identification code from the mailpiece;

a processing component configured to process the identification code to determine the identification information, using the identification file corresponding to the identification code; and

an identification information transmitting component configured to transmit the identification information to the mail processing device; and

an updating component configured to update the secondary identification code server, wherein the updating component further comprises:

a generating component configured to generate the data file using the service area table corresponding to the secondary identification code server to identify identification files in the lookup table; and

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a data file transmitting component configured to transmit the data file to the secondary identification code server.

91. The system of claim 90, wherein the mail processing device is a bar code sorter.

92. The system of claim 90, wherein the storing component further includes:

a revising component configured to configured to revise an old identification file in the lookup table with a revised identification file.

93. The system of claim 90, wherein the identification code is an ID tag.

94. The system of claim 90, wherein the file identification code is an ID tag.

95. The system of claim 90, wherein the file postal code is a POSTNET code.

96. The system of claim 90, wherein the service area table contains a plurality of postal codes corresponding to the secondary identification code server.

97. The system of claim 90, wherein the secondary identification code server is a SICS server.

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98. The system of claim 90, further comprising:

a delete file message receiving component configured to receive a delete file message from the mail processing device indicating an identification file to be deleted; and

a deleting component configured to delete the identification file to be deleted from the lookup table in response to the delete file message.

99. The system of claim 90, wherein the resolving component further includes:

a connecting component configured to connect to the mail processing device via a telecommunications link;

a test data receiving component configured to receive test data from the mail processing device; and

a confirming component configured to confirm the test data.

100. The system of claim 99, wherein the test data consists of nineteen test mailpiece identification codes.

101. The system of claim 90, wherein the identification information transmitting component further comprises:

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an identification file transmitting component configured to transmit the identification file corresponding to the identification code, if the identification code is found in the lookup table.

102. The system of claim 90, wherein the identification information transmitting component further comprises:

a file postal code transmitting component configured to transmit the file postal code corresponding to the identification code, if the identification code is found in the lookup table.

103. The system of claim 90, wherein the identification information transmitting component further comprises:

an error message transmitting component configured to transmit an error message to the mail processing device, if the identification code is not found in the lookup table.

104. The system of claim 90, wherein the data file is a SICS_ZIP data file.

105. The system of claim 90, wherein the identification file further includes an image capture time.

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106. The system of claim 105, wherein the identification file further includes a plurality of status bits that indicate aspects of the identification file.

107. The system of claim 90, wherein the updating component operates at a predetermined time interval.

108. The system of claim 107, wherein the predetermined time interval is twenty minutes.

109. The system of claim 90, wherein the updating component operates when a predetermined number of identification files have been received.

110. The system of claim 109, wherein the predetermined number of identification files is twenty thousand.

111. A system for processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, comprising:

means for receiving an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece from an image control unit, wherein the identification file contains a file identification code and a file postal code;

means for storing the identification file in a lookup table;

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means for maintaining a service area table database with a service area table for a secondary identification code server;

means for resolving mailpiece information for the mailpiece, wherein the resolving means further comprises:

means for receiving an identification code from a mail processing device, where the mail processing device obtains the identification code from the mailpiece;

means for processing the identification code to determine the identification information, using the identification file corresponding to the identification code; and

means for transmitting the identification information to the mail processing device; and

means for updating the secondary identification code server, wherein the updating means further comprises:

means for generating the data file using the service area table corresponding to the secondary identification code server to identify identification files in the lookup table; and

means for transmitting the data file to the secondary identification code server.

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112. A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, the computer readable code comprising:

an identification file receiving module configured to receive an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece from an image control unit, wherein the identification file contains a file identification code and a file postal code;

a storing module configured to store the identification file in a lookup table;

a maintaining module configured to maintain a service area table database with a service area table for a secondary identification code server;

a resolving module configured to mailpiece information for the mailpiece, wherein the resolving module further comprises:

an identification code receiving module configured to receive an identification code from a mail processing device, where the mail processing device obtains the identification code from the mailpiece;

a processing module configured to process the identification code to determine the identification information, using the identification file corresponding to the identification code; and

an identification information transmitting module configured to transmit the identification information to the mail processing device; and

an updating module configured to update the secondary identification code server, wherein the updating module further comprises:

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a generating module configured to generate the data file using the service area table corresponding to the secondary identification code server to identify identification files in the lookup table; and

a data file transmitting module configured to transmit the data file to the secondary identification code server.

113. A method of processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, comprising the steps of:

receiving an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece from an image control unit, wherein the identification file contains a file identification code and a file postal code;

storing the identification file in a lookup table; and

resolving mailpiece information for the mailpiece, wherein the resolving step further comprises the substeps of:

receiving an identification code from a mail processing device, where the mail processing device obtains the identification code from the mailpiece;

processing the identification code to determine the identification information, using the identification file corresponding to the identification code; and

transmitting the identification information to the mail processing device.

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114. The method of claim 113, wherein the mail processing device is a bar code sorter.

115. The method of claim 113, wherein the storing step further comprises:

revising an old identification file in the lookup table with a revised identification file.

116. The method of claim 113, wherein the identification code is an ID tag.

117. The method of claim 113, wherein the file identification code is an ID tag.

118. The method of claim 113, wherein the file postal code is a POSTNET code.

119. The method of claim 113, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a delete file message from the mail processing device indicating an identification file to be deleted; and

deleting the identification file to be deleted from the lookup table in response to the delete file message.

120. The method of claim 113, wherein the resolving step further comprises the substeps of:

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connecting to the mail processing device via a telecommunications link;

receiving test data from the mail processing device; and

confirming the test data.

121. The method of claim 120, wherein the test data consists of nineteen test mailpiece identification codes.

122. The method of claim 113, wherein the identification information transmitting step further comprises the substep of:

transmitting the identification file corresponding to the identification code, if the identification code is found in the lookup table.

123. The method of claim 113, wherein the identification information transmitting step further comprises the substep of:

transmitting the file postal code corresponding to the identification code, if the identification code is found in the lookup table.

124. The method of claim 113, wherein the identification information transmitting step further comprises the substep of:

transmitting an error message to the mail processing device, if the identification code is not found in the lookup table.

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125. The method of claim 113, wherein the identification file further includes an image capture time.

126. The method of claim 125, wherein the identification file further includes a plurality of status bits that indicate aspects of the identification file.

127. A system for processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, comprising:

an identification file receiving component configured to receive an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece from an image control unit, wherein the identification file contains a file identification code and a file postal code.

a storing component configured to store the identification file in a lookup table; and

a resolving component configured to resolve mailpiece information for the mailpiece, wherein the resolving component further comprises:

an identification code receiving component configured to receive an identification code from a mail processing device, where the mail processing device obtains the identification code from the mailpiece;

a processing component configured to process the identification code to determine the identification information, using the identification file corresponding to the identification code; and

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an identification information transmitting component configured to transmit the identification information to the mail processing device.

128. The system of claim 127, wherein the mail processing device is a bar code sorter.

129. The system of claim 127, wherein the storing component further comprises:

a revising component configured to revise an old identification file in the lookup table with a revised identification file.

130. The system of claim 127, wherein the identification code is an ID tag.

131. The system of claim 127, wherein the file identification code is an ID tag.

132. The system of claim 127, wherein the file postal code is a POSTNET code.

133. The system of claim 127, further comprising:

a delete file message receiving component configured to receive a delete file message from the mail processing device indicating an identification file to be deleted; and

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a deleting component configured to the identification file to be deleted from the lookup table in response to the delete file message.

134. The system of claim 127, wherein the resolving component further comprises:

a connecting component configured to connect to the mail processing device via a telecommunications link;

a test data receiving component configured to receive test data from the mail processing device; and

a confirming component configured to confirm the test data.

135. The system of claim 134, wherein the test data consists of nineteen test mailpiece identification codes.

136. The system of claim 127, wherein the identification information transmitting component further comprises:

an identification file transmitting component configured to transmit the identification file corresponding to the identification code, if the identification code is found in the lookup table.

137. The system of claim 127, wherein the identification information transmitting component further comprises:

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a file postal code transmitting component configured to transmit the file postal code corresponding to the identification code, if the identification code is found in the lookup table.

138. The system of claim 127, wherein the identification information transmitting component further comprises:

an error message transmitting component configured to transmit an error message to the mail processing device, if the identification code is not found in the lookup table.

139. The system of claim 127, wherein the identification file further includes an image capture time.

140. The system of claim 127, wherein the identification file further includes a plurality of status bits that indicate aspects of the identification file.

141. A system for processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, comprising:

means for receiving an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece from an image control unit, wherein the identification file contains a file identification code and a file postal code.

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means for storing the identification file in a lookup table; and

means for resolving mailpiece information for the mailpiece, wherein the resolving means further comprises:

means for receiving an identification code from a mail processing device, where the mail processing device obtains the identification code from the mailpiece;

means for processing the identification code to determine the identification information, using the identification file corresponding to the identification code; and

means for transmitting the identification information to the mail processing device.

142. A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, the computer readable code comprising:

an identification file receiving module configured to receive an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece from an image control unit, wherein the identification file contains a file identification code and a file postal code.

a storing module configured to store the identification file in a lookup table; and

a resolving module configured to resolve mailpiece information for the mailpiece, wherein the resolving module further comprises:

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an identification code receiving module configured to receive an identification code from a mail processing device, where the mail processing device obtains the identification code from the mailpiece;

a processing module configured to the identification code to determine the identification information, using the identification file corresponding to the identification code; and

an identification information transmitting module configured to transmit the identification information to the mail processing device.

143. A method of processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, comprising the steps of:

receiving an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece from an image control unit, wherein the identification file contains a file identification code and a file postal code;

storing the identification file in a lookup table;

maintaining a service area table database with a service area table for a secondary identification code server; and

updating the secondary identification code server, wherein the updating step further comprises the substeps of:

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generating the data file using the service area table corresponding to the secondary identification code server to identify identification files in the lookup table; and

transmitting the data file to the secondary identification code server.

144. The method of claim 143, wherein the mail processing device is a bar code sorter.

145. The method of claim 143, wherein the storing step further comprises:

revising an old identification file in the lookup table with a revised identification file.

146. The method of claim 143, wherein the file identification code is an ID tag.

147. The method of claim 143, wherein the file postal code is a POSTNET code.

148. The method of claim 143, wherein the secondary identification code server is a SICS server.

149. The method of claim 143, wherein the data file is a SICS_ZIP data file.

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150. The method of claim 143, wherein the service area table contains a plurality of postal codes corresponding to the secondary identification code server.

151. The method of claim 143, wherein the identification file further includes an image capture time.

152. The method of claim 151, wherein the identification file further includes a plurality of status bits that indicate aspects of the identification file.

153. The method of claim 143, wherein the updating step occurs at a predetermined time interval.

154. The method of claim 153, wherein the predetermined time interval is twenty minutes.

155. The method of claim 143, wherein the updating step occurs when a predetermined number of identification files have been received.

156. The method of claim 155, wherein the predetermined number of identification files is twenty thousand.

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157. A system for processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, comprising:

an identification file receiving component configured to receive an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece from an image control unit, wherein the identification file contains a file identification code and a file postal code;

a storing component configured to store the identification file in a lookup table;

a maintaining component configured to maintain a service area table database with a service area table for a secondary identification code server; and

an updating component configured to update the secondary identification code server, wherein the updating component further comprises:

a generating component configured to generate the data file using the service area table corresponding to the secondary identification code server to identify identification files in the lookup table; and

a transmitting component configured to transmit the data file to the secondary identification code server.

158. The system of claim 157, wherein the mail processing device is a bar code sorter.

159. The system of claim 157, wherein the storing component further comprises:

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a revising component configured to revise an old identification file in the lookup table with a revised identification file.

160. The system of claim 157, wherein the file identification code is an ID tag.

161. The system of claim 157, wherein the file postal code is a POSTNET code.

162. The system of claim 157, wherein the secondary identification code server is a SICS server.

163. The system of claim 157, wherein the data file is a SICS_ZIP data file.

164. The system of claim 157, wherein the service area table contains a plurality of postal codes corresponding to the secondary identification code server.

165. The system of claim 157, wherein the identification file further includes an image capture time.

166. The system of claim 157, wherein the identification file further includes a plurality of status bits that indicate aspects of the identification file.

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167. The system of claim 157, wherein the updating component operates at a predetermined time interval.

168. The system of claim 167, wherein the predetermined time interval is twenty minutes.

169. The system of claim 157, wherein the updating component operates when a predetermined number of identification files have been received.

170. The system of claim 169, wherein the predetermined number of identification files is twenty thousand.

171. A system for processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, comprising:

means for receiving an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece from an image control unit, wherein the identification file contains a file identification code and a file postal code;

means for storing the identification file in a lookup table;

means for maintaining a service area table database with a service area table for a secondary identification code server; and

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means for updating the secondary identification code server, wherein the updating means further comprises:

means for generating the data file using the service area table corresponding to the secondary identification code server to identify identification files in the lookup table; and

means for transmitting the data file to the secondary identification code server.

172. A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, the computer readable code comprising:

an identification file receiving module configured to receive an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece from an image control unit, wherein the identification file contains a file identification code and a file postal code;

a storing module configured to store the identification file in a lookup table;

a maintaining module configured to maintain a service area table database with a service area table for a secondary identification code server; and

an updating module configured to update the secondary identification code server, wherein the updating module further comprises:

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a generating module configured to generate the data file using the service area table corresponding to the secondary identification code server to identify identification files in the lookup table; and

a transmitting module configured to transmit the data file to the secondary identification code server.

173. A method of processing mailpiece information by a secondary identification code server, comprising the steps of:

receiving a data file from a primary identification code server, wherein the data file contains an identification file; and

resolving mailpiece information for a mailpiece using the identification file, where the mailpiece is identified by a mail processing device using an identification code.

174. The method of claim 173, wherein the mail processing device is a bar code sorter.

175. The method of claim 173, wherein the identification file contains a file identification code and a file postal code.

176. The method of claim 173, wherein the identification code is an ID tag.

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177. The method of claim 175, wherein the file identification code is an ID tag.

178. The method of claim 175, wherein the file postal code is a POSTNET code.

179. The method of claim 173, wherein the primary identification code server is a PICS server.

180. The method of claim 173, wherein the data file is a SICS_ZIP data file.

181. The method of claim 175, wherein the identification file further includes an image capture time.

182. The method of claim 181, wherein the identification file further includes a plurality of status bits that indicate aspects of the identification file.

183. A system for processing mailpiece information by a secondary identification code server, comprising:

a receiving component configured to receive a data file from a primary identification code server, wherein the data file contains an identification file; and

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a resolving component configured to resolve mailpiece information for a mailpiece using the identification file, where the mailpiece is identified by a mail processing device using an identification code.

184. The system of claim 183, wherein the mail processing device is a bar code sorter.

185. The system of claim 183, wherein the identification file contains a file identification code and a file postal code.

186. The system of claim 183, wherein the identification code is an ID tag.

187. The system of claim 185, wherein the file identification code is an ID tag

188. The system of claim 185, wherein the file postal code is a POSTNET code.

189. The system of claim 183, wherein the primary identification code server is a PICS server.

190. The system of claim 183, wherein the data file is a SICS_ZIP data file.

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191. The system of claim 185, wherein the identification file further includes an image capture time.

192. The system of claim 191, wherein the identification file further includes a plurality of status bits that indicate aspects of the identification file.

193. A system for processing mailpiece information by a secondary identification code server, comprising:

means for receiving a data file from a primary identification code server, wherein the data file contains an identification file; and

means for resolving mailpiece information for a mailpiece using the identification file, where the mailpiece is identified by a mail processing device using an identification code.

194. A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for processing mailpiece information by a secondary identification code server, the computer readable code comprising:

a receiving module configured to receive a data file from a primary identification code server, wherein the data file contains an identification file; and

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a resolving module configured to resolve mailpiece information for a mailpiece using the identification file, where the mailpiece is identified by a mail processing device using an identification code.

195. A method of processing mailpiece information by a secondary identification code server, comprising the steps of:

receiving the data file from the primary identification code server, wherein the data file contains an identification file having a file identification code and a file postal code; and

resolving mailpiece information for a mailpiece, wherein the resolving step further comprises the substeps of:

receiving an identification code from a mail processing device, where the mail processing device obtains the identification code from the mailpiece;

processing the identification code to determine the identification information, using the identification file corresponding to the identification code; and

transmitting the identification information to the mail processing device.

196. The method of claim 195, wherein the mail processing device is a bar code sorter.

197. The method of claim 195, wherein the identification code is an ID tag.

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198. The method of claim 195, wherein the file identification code is an ID tag.

199. The method of claim 195, wherein the file postal code is a POSTNET code.

200. The method of claim 195, wherein the resolving step further comprises the substeps of:

connecting to the mail processing device via a telecommunications link;

receiving test data from the mail processing device; and

confirming the test data.

201. The method of claim 200, wherein the test data consists of nineteen test mailpiece identification codes.

202. The method of claim 195, wherein the transmitting step further comprises the substep of:

transmitting the identification file corresponding to the identification code to the mail processing device, if the identification code is found in the data file.

203. The method of claim 195, wherein the transmitting step further comprises the substep of:

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transmitting the file postal code corresponding to the identification code to the mail processing device, if the identification code is found in the data file.

204. The method of claim 195, wherein the transmitting step further comprises the substep of:

transmitting a message to the mail processing device, if the identification code is not found in the data file.

205. The method of claim 195, wherein the primary identification code server is a PICS server.

206. The method of claim 195, wherein the data file is a SICS_ZIP data file.

207. The method of claim 195, wherein the data file contains a plurality of identification files, each having a file identification code, a file postal code, and a file image capture time.

208. The method of claim 195, wherein the identification file further includes an image capture time.

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209. The method of claim 195, wherein the identification file further includes a plurality of status bits that indicate aspects of the identification file.

210. A system for processing mailpiece information by a secondary identification code server, comprising:

a data file receiving component configured to receive the data file from the primary identification code server, wherein the data file contains an identification file having a file identification code and a file postal code; and

a resolving component configured to resolve mailpiece information for a mailpiece, wherein the resolving component further comprises:

an identification code receiving component configured to receive an identification code from a mail processing device, where the mail processing device obtains the identification code from the mailpiece;

a processing component configured to process the identification code to determine the identification information, using the identification file corresponding to the identification code; and

an identification information transmitting component configured to transmit the identification information to the mail processing device.

211. The system of claim 210, wherein the mail processing device is a bar code sorter.

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212. The system of claim 210, wherein the identification code is an ID tag.

213. The system of claim 210, wherein the file identification code is an ID tag.

214. The system of claim 210, wherein the file postal code is a POSTNET code.

215. The system of claim 210, wherein the resolving component further comprises:

a connecting component configured to connect to the mail processing device via a telecommunications link;

a test data receiving component configured to receive test data from the mail processing device; and

a confirming component configured to confirm the test data.

216. The system of claim 215, wherein the test data consists of nineteen test mailpiece identification codes.

217. The system of claim 210, wherein the transmitting component further comprises:

an identification file transmitting component configured to transmit the identification file corresponding to the identification code to the mail processing device, if the identification code is found in the data file.

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218. The system of claim 210, wherein the transmitting component further comprises:

a file postal code transmitting component configured to transmit the file postal code corresponding to the identification code to the mail processing device, if the identification code is found in the data file.

219. The system of claim 210, wherein the transmitting component further comprises:

a message transmitting component configured to transmit a message to the mail processing device, if the identification code is not found in the data file.

220. The system of claim 210, wherein the primary identification code server is a PICS server.

221. The system of claim 210, wherein the data file is a SICS_ZIP data file.

222. The system of claim 210, wherein the data file contains a plurality of identification files, each having a file identification code, a file postal code, and a file image capture time.

223. The system of claim 210, wherein the identification file further includes an image capture time.

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224. The system of claim 210, wherein the identification file further includes a plurality of status bits that indicate aspects of the identification file.

225. A system for processing mailpiece information by a secondary identification code server, comprising:

means for receiving the data file from the primary identification code server, wherein the data file contains an identification file having a file identification code and a file postal code; and

means for resolving mailpiece information for a mailpiece, wherein the resolving means further comprises:

means for receiving an identification code from a mail processing device, where the mail processing device obtains the identification code from the mailpiece;

means for processing the identification code to determine the identification information, using the identification file corresponding to the identification code; and

means for transmitting the identification information to the mail processing device.

226. A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for processing mailpiece information by a secondary identification code server, the computer readable code comprising:

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a data file receiving module configured to receive the data file from the primary identification code server, wherein the data file contains an identification file having a file identification code and a file postal code; and

a resolving module configured to resolve mailpiece information for a mailpiece, wherein the resolving module further comprises:

an identification code receiving module configured to receive an identification code from a mail processing device, where the mail processing device obtains the identification code from the mailpiece;

a processing module configured to process the identification code to determine the identification information, using the identification file corresponding to the identification code; and

an identification information transmitting module configured to transmit the identification information to the mail processing device.

227. A method of processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, comprising the steps of:

receiving an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece from an Electronic Post Office wherein the identification file contains an identification code and a postal code; and

resolving mailpiece information for a mail processing device, using the identification file.

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228. The method of claim 227, wherein the mail processing device is a bar code sorter.

229. The method of claim 227, wherein the identification code is an ID tag.

230. The method of claim 227, wherein the postal code is a POSTNET code.

231. The method of claim 227, further comprising the step of:

sending a local service area table file to the Electronic Post Office.

232. The method of claim 231, wherein the identification file relates to the local service area table file.

233. A system for processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, comprising:

a receiving component configured to receive an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece from an Electronic Post Office wherein the identification file contains an identification code and a postal code; and

a resolving component configured to resolve mailpiece information for a mail processing device, using the identification file.

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234. The system of claim 233, wherein the mail processing device is a bar code sorter.

235. The system of claim 233, wherein the identification code is an ID tag.

236. The system of claim 233, wherein the postal code is a POSTNET code.

237. The system of claim 233, further comprising:

a sending component configured to send a local service area table file to the Electronic Post Office.

238. The system of claim 237, wherein the identification file relates to the local service area table file.

239. A system for processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, comprising:

means for receiving an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece from an Electronic Post Office wherein the identification file contains an identification code and a postal code; and

means for resolving mailpiece information for a mail processing device, using the identification file.

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240. A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, the computer readable code comprising:

a receiving module configured to receive an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece from an Electronic Post Office wherein the identification file contains an identification code and a postal code; and

a resolving module configured to resolve mailpiece information for a mail processing device, using the identification file.

241. A method of processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, comprising the steps of:

receiving an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece from an image control unit, wherein the identification file contains a file identification code and a file postal code;

determining whether the identification file corresponds to a local service area table file;

updating an Electronic Post Office, if the identification file does not correspond to the local service area table file, wherein the updating step further comprises the substeps of:

transmitting the local service area table file to the Electronic Post Office; and

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sending the identification file to the Electronic Post Office; and

storing the identification file in a lookup table, if the identification file corresponds to the local service area table file.

242. The method of claim 241, wherein the file identification code is an ID tag.

243. The method of claim 241, wherein the file postal is POSTNET code.

244. A system for processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, comprising:

a receiving component configured to receive an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece from an image control unit, wherein the identification file contains a file identification code and a file postal code;

a determining component configured to determine whether the identification file corresponds to a local service area table file;

an updating component configured to update an Electronic Post Office, if the identification file does not correspond to the local service area table file, wherein the updating component further comprises:

a transmitting component configured to transmit the local service area table file to the Electronic Post Office; and

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a sending component configured to send the identification file to the Electronic Post Office; and

a storing component configured to store the identification file in a lookup table, if the identification file corresponds to the local service area table file.

245. The system of claim 244, wherein the file identification code is an ID tag.

246. The system of claim 244, wherein the file postal is POSTNET code.

247. A system for processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, comprising:

means for receiving an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece from an image control unit, wherein the identification file contains a file identification code and a file postal code;

means for determining whether the identification file corresponds to a local service area table file;

means for updating an Electronic Post Office, if the identification file does not correspond to the local service area table file, wherein the updating means further comprises:

means for transmitting the local service area table file to the Electronic Post Office; and

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means for sending the identification file to the Electronic Post Office; and

means for storing the identification file in a lookup table, if the identification file corresponds to the local service area table file.

248. A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, the computer readable code comprising:

a receiving module configured to receive an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece from an image control unit, wherein the identification file contains a file identification code and a file postal code;

a determining module configured to determine whether the identification file corresponds to a local service area table file;

an updating module configured to update an Electronic Post Office, if the identification file does not correspond to the local service area table file, wherein the updating module further comprises:

a transmitting module configured to transmit the local service area table file to the Electronic Post Office; and

a sending module configured to send the identification file to the Electronic Post Office; and

a storing module configured to store the identification file in a lookup table, if the identification file corresponds to the local service area table file.

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249. A method of processing mailpiece information by an Electronic Post Office, comprising the steps of:

receiving an identification file from a transmitting primary identification code server, wherein the identification file contains an identification code and a postal code;

storing the identification file in a storage buffer; and

updating a receiving primary identification code server, wherein the updating step further comprises the substeps of:

receiving a local service area table file corresponding to the receiving primary identification code server;

matching the identification file to the local service area table file;

storing the identification file in a primary identification code server table; and

sending the primary identification code server table to the receiving primary identification code server.

250. The method of claim 249, further comprising the steps of:

generating a national service area table file; and

sending the national service area table file to the receiving primary identification code server.

251. The method of claim 249, wherein the identification code is an ID tag.

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252. The method of claim 249, wherein the postal code is a POSTNET code.

253. The method of claim 249, wherein the identification file further comprises an image capture time.

254. The method of claim 249, wherein the identification file further comprises a plurality of status bits that indicate aspects of the identification file.

255. A system for processing mailpiece information by an Electronic Post Office, comprising:

an identification file receiving component configured to receive an identification file from a transmitting primary identification code server, wherein the identification file contains an identification code and a postal code;

a storing component configured to store the identification file in a storage buffer; and

an updating component configured to update a receiving primary identification code server, wherein the updating component further comprises:

a local service area table file receiving component configured to receive a local service area table file corresponding to the receiving primary identification code server;

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a matching component configured to match the identification file to the local service area table file;

a storing component configured to store the identification file in a primary identification code server table; and

a primary identification code server table sending component configured to send the primary identification code server table to the receiving primary identification code server.

256. The system of claim 255, further comprising:

a generating component configured to generate a national service area table file; and

a national service area table file sending component configured to send the national service area table file to the receiving primary identification code server.

257. The system of claim 255, wherein the identification code is an ID tag.

258. The system of claim 255, wherein the postal code is a POSTNET code.

259. The system of claim 255, wherein the identification file further comprises an image capture time.

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260. The system of claim 255, wherein the identification file further comprises a plurality of status bits that indicate aspects of the identification file.

261. A system for processing mailpiece information by an Electronic Post Office, comprising:

means for receiving an identification file from a transmitting primary identification code server, wherein the identification file contains an identification code and a postal code;

means for storing the identification file in a storage buffer; and

means for updating a receiving primary identification code server, wherein the updating means further comprises:

means for receiving a local service area table file corresponding to the receiving primary identification code server;

means for matching the identification file to the local service area table file;

means for storing the identification file in a primary identification code server table; and

means for sending the primary identification code server table to the receiving primary identification code server.

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262. A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for processing mailpiece information by an Electronic Post Office, the computer readable code comprising:

an identification file receiving module configured to receive an identification file from a transmitting primary identification code server, wherein the identification file contains an identification code and a postal code;

a storing module configured to store the identification file in a storage buffer; and

an updating module configured to update a receiving primary identification code server, wherein the updating module further comprises:

a local service area table file receiving module configured to receive a local service area table file corresponding to the receiving primary identification code server;

a matching module configured to match the identification file to the local service area table file;

a storing module configured to store the identification file in a primary identification code server table; and

a primary identification code server table sending module configured to send the primary identification code server table to the receiving primary identification code server.

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